



U.S. Department of Justice
INTERPOL Washington
U.S. National Central Bureau

Washington, DC 20530

June 19, 2019

FOIA # 2019-148

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 73156
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Ms. Best:

This responds to your request dated May 15, 2019, to INTERPOL Washington, U.S. National Central Bureau (USNCB), pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requesting "Records relating to or mentioning Operation DarkNet."

We received your request on May 15, 2019. Please refer to the above FOIA number assigned to your request in any additional correspondence.

The USNCB has adopted a "multi-track processing" of FOIA requests based on the estimated amount of work and time needed to process the request. The criteria for assignment to a specific track can be found in the Department of Justice FOIA Regulations at 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(b). Your request has been assigned to the simple track.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

A reasonable search of the INTERPOL Washington system of records subject to the FOIA and administrative files produced no records. Since we located no records, either no records ever existed in our system of records, or if a criminal investigative record existed in the INTERPOL Washington system of records and the criminal investigation was closed on any date up through 2007, those records would have been destroyed and would no longer be available for retrieval. You may be interested to know that INTERPOL Washington investigative records are retained only for a period of seven (7) years from the date a case is closed.

If you are not satisfied with INTERPOL Washington's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following website: <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov ; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

You may contact the INTERPOL Washington FOIA Requester Service Center, as well as our FOIA Public Liaison, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Our contact information is as follows: INTERPOL Washington, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530-0001, Attention: Office of General Counsel, Tel.: 202-616-0201, Email: Interpol-USNCB.FOIA@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Kevin Smith
General Counsel